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## QUEEN'S FAVORITE HYMNS.

Some That Have Comforted the Sovereign of Great Britain in sorrow.

For many years after the queen had made her Highland home at Balmoral with her family she would not have any hymns sung either at Crathie church or at the private services in the castle, but was content with the quaint versions of the Psalms in general use among the Presbyterians of the old school. Now the "Scottish Hymnal" is used at both, and the hymns selected for the castle services are generally chosen by Princess Beatrice or the ladies in personal attendance on the sovereign. The queen is very fond of "Nearer, My God, to Thee," and so are the prince and princess of Wales. Another great favorite with the prince is the "Soldier's Hymn," written by Rev. Arthur Robins, of Holy Trinity church, Windsor, and set to Rossini's music. Never does his royal highness attend that church without this hymn being sung, in which he joins heartily.

Charles Wesley's "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," and old John Newton's "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds," have always been enjoyed and appreciated by the queen, but for the last 30 years her choice has fallen most frequently on hymns relating to the future state, and breathing the spirit of resignation. It is impossible to follow them from year to year without feeling that the attitude of her majesty's mind is "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." For some years after the death of the prince consort no hymns were sung at the annual memorial services, and then Princess Alice of Hesse died on the anniversary of her beloved father's death, and on the day of her funeral the queen chose both anthem and hymn for the service in the private chapel in Windsor castle. The former was "The Souls of the Righteous Are in the Hand of God," the music by Dr. Elvey, and the latter "Thy Will Be Done." This exquisite hymn, by Miss Charlotte Elliott, so universally known by the four words that form its refrain, taken from our Saviour's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, has for its first line "My God, My Father, while I stray," and is probably sung by all Christian churches throughout the world. This hymn was again chosen by her majesty for the memorial services in 1879, which commemorated both father and daughter, and those who are about the court have observed that ever since that date it has been one of her special favorites. A beautiful and interesting old hymn, written by Nicolai in 1598, beginning "Wake, for the night is flying," was also sung by the queen's desire that year.

The death of her majesty's youngest son, the duke of Albany, was a very great grief to her, though she rose out of it in her endeavors to comfort his young widow. Judging from her letter to Lord Tennyson, it was a trial in which she found it hard to see why "a young life, so full of talent, so gifted, and so useful," should have been "cut off so soon," and perhaps this feeling dictated her choice of Newman's "Lead, Kindly Light," which was sung over his grave, and her strong faith, reasserting itself, was expressed in the majestic

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
That followed it. A bereavement that fell very heavily on the queen, not only on account of her maternal sympathy with Princess Beatrice—"the daughter who has never left me"—but because she was personally sincerely attached to him, was the death of Prince Henry of Battenberg, who was so dutifully companionable and pleasant to her during the few years he was one of her home circle. The hymn she selected for the earlier part of the ceremony when he was laid to rest in Whippingham church was Dean Milman's "Brother, Thou Art Gone Before Us," and pathetic, too, are the verses which were sung immediately after the benediction. Their authorship is unknown, but the widowed princess chose them from a volume of hymns that is one of her private treasures:

Sleep thy last sleep,  
Free from care and sorrow,  
Rest where none weep  
Till the eternal morrow.

—London Quiver.

Strategic Value of Puerto Rico. Until it was discovered that Puerto Rico possessed great value as a "strategic center" of naval operations, the fair-weather island was undisturbed, merely a link, and no important one, in the emerald chain that separates the Atlantic and the Caribbean. Suddenly naval folk became aware of its importance: that while it borders on the Caribbean sea, yet it breathes the rough Atlantic waters; that it is equidistant, or about a thousand miles, from Key West and Colon; from New York 1,500 miles, which is half the distance from Cadix; 1,300 from Newport News, which is half the distance to the Canaries; it lies, in fact, at the very point that we should have selected for a chain of stations, had we unrestricted freedom of location. All the arguments have been advanced for the sequel of the island of St. Thomas, 50 miles distant, and for which one was sent almost yearly to pay \$7,000,000, apply with tenfold force to Puerto Rico, with its six good harbors to the one of St. Thomas, and its commercial as well as strategic potentialities.—Frederick A. Ober, in Century.

Electricity as an Anesthetic. A scientist has discovered that electrical currents in the form of waves rapidly succeeding one another can produce insensibility to pain and cold in the flesh, acting as an anesthetic like ether. When the currents were applied to the finger and thumb by wires the finger could be pricked with a pin without pain.—Chicago Chronicle.

## Bullet Put Him to Sleep.

"When the bullet struck me I fell, but our men passed on. The sensation I felt was different from what I felt when wounded before. In a few minutes I fell asleep. I had a most pleasant dream. What it was I do not know, but I know it was pleasant. I slept for 15 minutes."—Cor. N. Y. Herald.

## Not to Be Pitied.

People who have to work and are not pitied are the ones who win in the end.—Washington (La.) Democrat.

## AUTUMNAL EQUINOX.

A Period When Days and Nights Are Equal Throughout the World.

One of the most interesting features of the month lies in the fact that the sun reaches the equator and starts off on his six months' journey in the south declination. This autumnal equinox, as it is called, gives us equal days and nights the world over. It has been found that there is a slow retrograde motion of the point of the sun's crossing the equator from east to west, or contrary to the order of the zodiacal signs, as if the point advanced to meet the sun on each annual return. To this phenomenon has been given the name of the "precession of the equinoxes." This motion is at the approximate rate of a degree in 71 7-10 years, the equator moving on the ecliptic, while the ecliptic retains its position nearly unchanged among the stars.

This peculiarity is said to be caused by the combined action of the sun and moon on the mass of matter accumulated about the earth's equator. In consequence of this motion the longitudes of the heavenly bodies are increasing, while on comparing their latitudes as found by the ancient astronomers with those of to-day only little change indeed is found. The credit for this important discovery is due to Hipparchus, whose researches were made more than 100 years before the Christian era. One other effect of this precession is of interest to us, and that is its bearing on the position of the signs of the zodiac, whose limits do not now agree with the constellations which bear the same names. For example, the sign of Aries is now in the constellation of Pisces, and so on, each sign having "backed," so to speak, into the constellation west of it.—N. Y. Times.

## Quaint Costume of Holland.

Many people will have seen the charming portrait which has been taken of Wilhelmina in the national dress of the Friesland women. To realize how wise was the decision of the regent mother to encourage her daughter in her fondness for the handsome peasant dress, one must understand what an important place in the lives and affections of the Dutch people of the present day their national dress holds. In all parts of the country the old styles of peasant dresses are still to be seen. On the brows of the women of Zeeland wonderful head-dresses of silver and gold are worn by the Friesland women. There are no more conservative people in the matter of dress and family customs than the Dutch, and their little queen has become doubly dear to them through her devotion to the quaint national dress and her love for many other of the time-honored customs. Among the family of dolls which lives at the Swiss chalet, Wilhelmina's playhouse in the grounds of the palace at Het Loo, are several dressed in the distinctive garb worn by the women of different parts of her majesty's dominions.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

## Omelet a la Carte.

Six eggs, a tablespoonful of butter, six spoonfuls of rich milk, half of an even teaspoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of onion garlic juice, dash of pepper, one teaspoonful of canned French peas, well drained. If you like, one-half teaspoonful of stewed tomatoes, well drained. Put yolks of eggs, butter, milk, salt, pepper and onion or garlic juice in pan and place over the lamp. When warmed add the whites of the eggs, well beaten. Cook about five minutes. Then add the peas, fold together and serve hot.—Boston Herald.

## Pepper Sauce.

Cut up very fine three large heads of cabbage and six seeded pods of green pepper. Add a tablespoonful of celery seed, a teaspoonful of allspice and the same of mace, white mustard seed and salt. Mix, cover with good cider vinegar and put away in well-stopped glass bottles for use.—Detroit Free Press.



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